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The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.
Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.
You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



GOSPEL FOCUS

Advocate

In the text, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the Advocate, sometimes translated as Paraclete. Both words have very similar meanings. Today when we describe someone as an advocate we usually mean that they stand up for and speak out for someone else or a particular cause. Advocate also has a legal meaning where the advocate bears witness and attests to the validity of another. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate of Jesus in that the action of the Holy Spirit continues to bear witness to the message of Jesus.

COVID Safe Plan

Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. They are strongly recommend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or are outdoors and cannot physically distance.

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- If you are waiting results of a COVID test, stay home.
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.

Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. You can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (select Parish)



Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Office Hours: Wed—Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Parish Co-ord: Lia Andanar Yu
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache

Wed-Fri 9– 1pm

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

Sunday 10:00 am

Wednesday 10.00 am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday 8.30 am

Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Lexton 5th Sunday 8.30 am

Wendouree

Saturday 6:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am

Friday No Mass

Readings for Next Weekend:

Ascension of the Lord

- Acts 1: 1-11
- Ps 46: 2-3, 6-7
8-9 R.v.6
- Eph 1: 17-23
- Lk: 24: 46-53



22nd May, 2022 - 6th Sunday of Easter (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long range rocket, hoping it will find its target.

This is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel.

'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I will make our home with that person.' It is not in outer space, but in inner space that Divine Love will make a home.

What turns a house into a home? It is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. So, Jesus created a sacred meal for us and invites us to share in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink.

When we do so, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. We take into ourselves the Real Presence of the Risen Lord who makes his home with us.

Coming to Communion, even after a long time away, satisfies the yearning of the human heart because it is made to be the habitation of Divine Love. We could pause for a moment to reflect on the gracious fact that God chooses to dwell in our hearts. Let us respond wholeheartedly.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



Responsorial Psalm: (R) O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Les Eagan

Anniversaries: We remember Nancy Colasante, Dean Lang, Max Franklin, Dot Spark, Thomas Gurrie, Faye Tobin, Peter Cook, Brian Molloy, John Kennedy, Jack Lynch, Sidney Morgan, John Francis Deady

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; for the people of the Ukraine, for all the sick in our Parishes, and for the children and families preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Legion of Mary will host a '**Day of Reflection**' on Friday, 27 May 2022 in honor of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. Father Nathan Rawlins of St Peter's Parish, Epping, will be the Keynote Speaker for the day. All members of the Legion of Mary Family, active, auxiliary and past members, including parishioners from all Parishes of Ballarat, are cordially invited to participate in this event. The day will start at 9.15 am and finish at 3.15 pm.

Alive in the Spirit 2022 – Virtual Conference from May 26-28, 2022

Last year, over 1000 Australian & New Zealand bishops, priests, deacons, religious, pastoral councils, parish and diocesan staff and ministry teams participated in the "Alive in the Spirit" experience, inspired by many homegrown ideas, practical pathways and opportunities to renew and revitalise our pastoral settings. In 2022, "Alive in the Spirit" returns, this year's theme: "What does God require of us: To Act Justly, To Love Mercy & To Walk Humbly". Endorsed by bishops from both Australia and New Zealand, this interactive online pastoral experience offers both individuals and groups a variety of ways to flexibly engage. With parishes and dioceses hungering for fresh hope, new ideas, and positive stories and models of practice in service of Christ's mission, "Alive in the Spirit" will engage you with over thirty workshops, amazing keynotes, and balancing on-screen input with time for off-screen prayer, reflection and a call to action. Our Catholic Church offers so much richness, and "Alive in the Spirit" celebrates the good of who we are, while inviting us to continue to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as we engage with the Signs of the Times in our Oceania Region. For more information and to register go to <https://aliveinthespirit.com.au/>

Advance Notice: Ordinations to the Priesthood Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. Matthew had been present our Parishes during 2019. Bill is currently working in the Redan Parish.

St Columba's May 29th	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Vicky Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Ruth Marquand
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
 Presbytery: Parish: \$ 419.20 Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,190.00

OLHC Parish Sacramental Program. This program is Family Based, School Supported and Parish Co-ordinated. Confirmation is available for Baptised Catholic children in Year 3 or older.



OLHC have 10 children and their families participating in this preparation program. Please keep them in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Confirmation ceremony will be on Pentecost Sunday— at the 6:00 pm Mass on Saturday, June 4th.

National Family Week: May 15-21, 2022 CatholicCare Victoria believes that building strong family relationships is the key to building healthy, resilient communities. Strong families give children the foundation they need to grow and the support they need to face challenges and setbacks not only now, but into the future. So how can parents and families build strong family relationships? Family Relationship Practitioners in Bendigo, Julia Feiss and Lisa Castles, share five important elements for creating strong families at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families>. There is also, "A Blessing for Families" on this webpage.

St Augustine's Church Creswick 150th Anniversary On the weekend of September 17-18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine's Church, Creswick. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, please contact Leonie in the parish voffice, email creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0488220685

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day.

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933].

They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests.

Please, no more war.

Daily Gospel Reflections During the height of COVID in 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Adult Formation Team launched a daily gospel reflection resource to help Catholics stay connected with God whilst they couldn't attend Mass. The resource has been so well received that the offer is extended to all who may find it useful. The Daily Gospel Reflections are delivered each weekday morning to your email inbox, and will take just a few moments to read but will centre you in relationship with God for the rest of the day. To find out more or subscribe go to <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

Mass Counts will be occurring for the next 2 weeks. Please be aware that attendance will be noted and reported to the Diocese.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. They are strongly recommend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms and are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

All Saints Parish Portland 175th Anniversary Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland. All Saints Portland is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Ballarat. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, we invite you to please contact us at the Parish Office by email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by posting copies of items to All Saints Parish, PO Box 210, Portland, 3305.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2022: May 29 – June 5

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship" (cf Matthew 2:2). Resources for use in prayer services in your parishes, local ministers associations or inter-church Councils are available at <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/wopcu22>

OLHC 28th May	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Helen & Colin Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	June:	Clare & Kerry Mullane

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